Policy Group Meeting Guidelines

1. Public Comment

Both BDAC and the general public will now have an active role at these meetings. State open meeting laws require that the public be allowed to comment on each item on the agenda. State law also requires that time be set aside for public comment on any related CALFED matter that is not on the meeting agenda.

As Co-chairs, you must make sure to take that into account as you chair the meeting. You have discretion as to how much time to allow to each speaker. You also have discretion as to how much total time to allow for public comment at the meeting. You also have discretion in determining whether a person's comments are germane to CALFED. Finally, neither the Co-chairs nor any member of the Policy Group is obligated to respond to any public comment, only to listen and acknowledge the remarks.

Suggested Guidelines for Public Comment for August 12:

1. Allow for public comment for each decision item (Interim Governance, Restoration Coordination) at the time these items appear on the agenda. For all other agenda items, public comment will be made during times set aside before lunch and at the end of the day.
2. Allow up to three minutes per speaker.
3. Allow up to fifteen minutes in the morning and thirty minutes in the afternoon for public comment

1. Policy Group deliberations in public

All comments made by Policy Group members become part of public record. Therefore, Policy Group members need to be advised to that effect, particularly with regard to discussions on any items, which are currently in litigation. Examples on this meeting's agenda include South Delta (South Delta Water Agency litigation with the state and the federal governments). This issue will be raised and discussed by Mary Scoonover of the Attorney General's office at the August 10th Small Group meeting.

Mary Scoonover has also advised against any reference to decisions made at prior non-public Policy Group meetings. We have also omitted the June meeting summary and Small Group meeting outcomes memos from the packet, since meeting packets are now public documents.